



Tony Allred, MDNR/TEA*
Ken Belt, Baltimore/LTER
Christine Buckley, Harford Co.
Mark Castro, UMCES/AL*
Brian Clevenger, MDE*
Kim Coble, CBF
Jim Cummins, ICPRB
Tom Devillbiss, Carroll Co.*
John Grace, MDE*
Mary Ellen Ley, USGS/CBP
Abby Markowitz, Tetra Tech*

Andrew Miller, UMBC*
Angela Morales, Howard Co.*
Nancy Roth, Versar, Inc.*
Steve Stewart, Baltimore Co./DER*
Robert J. Shedlock, USGS*
William P. Stack, Baltimore City/DPW*
Paul Sturm, CWP*
Chris Tanner, SMCM
Carl Weber, UMBC*
Ken Yetman, DNR/WRD*

Executive Secretary: Dr. Paul Miller, MDNR/MANTA

Members Present: *Indicates that the Board member was present at this meeting.
Guests: Marcia Smith, MDE; Charlie Poukish, MDE; Matt Rowe, MDE; Ron Klauda, MDNR; Russ Brinsfield, WREC; Ken Staver, WREC; Eva Ammentorp, USEPA; Eileen McClellan, Chester River Association

MINUTES

MWMC Quarterly Board Meeting

University of Maryland

Wye Research and Education Center (WREC)

July 8, 2003

Chairman Stack opened the meeting by welcoming our guests and introducing our host Dr. Russ Brinsfield.

The MWMC quarterly board meeting was held at the University of Maryland's Wye Research and Education Center (WREC) in Wye Mills, Maryland.

Most of the staff at WREC come from College Park on teaching appointments. The Center, at approximately 1000 acres, is the largest that University of Maryland has. WREC is located on Corsica Cove, an embayment of the Wye River. Many of the staff at the Center are working on transport of nutrients off farm field to ground and surface water. Experimental work with alternative crops, beef and horticulture is also carried out at WREC.

The property was originally owned by the Houghton Family of Corning Glass. The family built a replica of the Paca House on the property. The original Paca house in Annapolis, MD. UMD shares the property with the Aspen Institute.

Goals of the Maryland Water Monitoring Council - Bill Stack

Bill Stack presented a brief history of the Maryland Water Monitoring Council for the benefit of guests. Chairman Stack described the inception of the Council, charter, and by-laws, composition of the Board of Directors, Committees and activities (Monitoring Roundtable, Groundwater Symposium, Integrated Hydrologic Monitoring Network and Annual Conference).

National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) - Abby Markowitz

Abby provides technical support for the Methods and Data Comparability Board. Abby does outreach and is presently planning the Annual Conference for the NWQMC which will be held August 19-20 at UMBC. The National Council will meet with MWMC to discuss our goals and activities during this time. The role of the National Council is to provide answers to the question "Why a state and regional Water Monitoring Council is a good idea." Abby believes one of the roles of the National Council is in liaison.

Bill Stack requested the results of the survey that the National Council conducted of all the state councils.

Bill Stack asked Abby to present the concept and role of the Methods Board within the National Council. Abby explained that the Methods and Data Comparability Board (the "Board") is one of the National Council's workgroups--much like the Data Management, PCC, and Monitoring and Assessment Committees are workgroups of the MWMC. However, the Board is much bigger in size and mission than the Council's other workgroups, with its own separate membership and workgroups.

Bob Shedlock, Bill Stack and Carl Weber will coordinate the discussion with representatives of the NWQMC for the afternoon of August 19th.

Bill Stack introduced new Board Member Paul Sturm from Center for Watershed Protection (CWP). Paul Sturm replaces David Bancroft of Alliance for Chesapeake Bay. CWP is involved in developing watershed management plans. Other activities include looking at NPDES data from around the country, reviewing environmental design and planning a restoration workshop.

EPA's Request for States to Develop Monitoring Strategies - Eva Ammentorp

There is great variability among state monitoring strategies and EPA is attempting to upgrade and expand existing programs for uniformity. This process will take about 10 years. States receiving federal 106 money will be asked to participate. EPA has outlined the elements of an adequate (or ideal) monitoring program.

The first action to be taken by States is to upgrade the monitoring plans and include them in the FY 2004 grant application for EPA 106 funds. Guidance for this

activity may be found at www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/repguid.html.

Board Stakeholder Group Plans

Private Industry - Nancy Roth

It is essential to have the benefit flow both ways. Council may want to identify key people within the private sector (e.g., developers) and tailor our message for them. Abby believes we could start by identifying what groups fall within the “private sector.”

Watershed Groups - Paul Sturm

How can small watershed association be engaged in council activities:

1. Offer to go out in the field with them and invite them to accompany us. See how we can increase their tactical capacity.
2. Include them in watershed plans, complete with roles and responsibilities, e.g., adopt a pond, adopt a stream.

Eileen McLellan offered that, in addition to upgrading the tactical approach, the council needs to find a way to use “low tech” data in assessments.

Committee Reports

Programmatic Coordinator Committee (PCC) - Steve Stewart

Steve distributed the PCC agenda for the July 11, 2003 meeting. Allan Gillis will give a presentation on sediment monitoring. Nancy Roth will give a presentation on nitrogen processing in headwater streams.

The committee members are developing goals and activities for the PCC to accomplish in the coming year. They are planning to reissue the Water Monitoring Program Survey.

Monitoring and Assessment Committee - Ron Klauda

The M&A Committee is discussing the next Monitoring Roundtable for 2004. The Data Management Committee will present their ideas for a “clickable map” of monitoring programs at the roundtable in February 2004. The objectives of the next meeting will be distributed with the announcement of that event.

Sherm Garrison has suggested that a workshop be held on QA/QC concepts and methods. This will be held in autumn of 2004. Ron distributed a handout containing some of Sherm’s ideas about the QA/QC workshop.

Ron proposed the idea of watershed condition summaries. Something like a watershed or regional indicator of water quality in Maryland. The committee is looking for ideas on how this could be done.

Data Management Committee - Matt Rowe

The Data Management Committee established goals for creating a “clickable map” of water monitoring activity at their last meeting. Currently a list of contact persons for monitoring programs is on mddnr.chesapeakebay.net. The committee would like to expound this to include data in the future. Matt prepared a hand-out “Data Management Committee Update to the MWMC Board Members, July 8, 2003,” for the July 8, 2003 board meeting.

Groundwater Monitoring Workgroup - Marcia Smith

The group is divided into shallow and deep well study groups that will reveal the special monitoring needs of each. John Grace announced that the Groundwater Symposium will be held on September 25, 2003.

Integrated Hydrologic Monitoring Workgroup (IHMW) - Bob Shedlock

The IHMW met on June 16, 2003. A goal is to develop a workgroup to engage people to think about integrating monitoring systems to determine their inter-relationships. A workshop is planned for spring.

Annual Conference Planning Committee - Brian Clevenger

Brian Clevenger distributed the outline of the Conference Agenda. Assignments were made among Conference Committee Members to organize plenary and break-out sessions. The Annual Conference will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2003 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD.

Eileen McLelland - The Chester River Association: Citizen Monitoring at the Watershed Level

Chester River Association started in 1986. Eileen's been on the job about 10 months. She envisions that her job is to guide the Association to protect, conserve and restore.

Concerns of the Association

1. Every mile of Chester has a TMDL
2. Fish consumption advisories
3. Loss of habitat
4. Decline of living resources

What can volunteers do?

1. Water quality, yes
2. Fish tissue, no
3. Physical habitat, yes

The Association has 10 years of data. The best of which is temperature and DO. Continuous monitoring buoys will be installed in the Chester and the Corsica River is currently undergoing a Watershed Restoration Assessment Study (WRAS) to determine how BMPs may be employed to remove the Corsica from the TMDL list for nitrogen. Eileen plans to use volunteers to do a watershed "snapshot" in October and organize stream teams (Spring 2004).

Nutrient Management on Agricultural Land - Ken Staver

Nitrogen management is more than managing inputs as bacteria produce nitrogen from organic matter in soil long after crop demand has ceased. TN at Red Bridge Road is ~2 mg/L. Ken showed a graph indicating that nearly all the TN was NO₃.

Tour of the Wye Facility - Dan Fisher

Several Board members toured Dan Fisher's ambient toxicity laboratory after the Board meeting was adjourned by Chairman Stack at 2:00.